



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 20, 2005

Contact: Connie Long
757-412-2664

VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS HONOR LEADER IN PROFESSION
Award goes to long-time workforce services/economic development professional

VIRGINIA BEACH – The Virginia Economic Developers Association (VEDA) presented Preston A. Wilhelm, Sr., Virginia Department of Business Assistance with the 2005 Cardinal Award at the association's Fall Conference & Annual Meeting on September 15 in Virginia Beach.

"In presenting the award to this candidate, VEDA has recognized an innovator in workforce development as well as his involvement with the economic development profession for over the past 25 years," said June Wilmot, 2005 Award Chair. "Over the past five years alone, Preston has been responsible for managing 1,951 economic development projects creating 86,233 jobs for Virginians."

Under Wilhelm's leadership the application process for accessing Virginia's workforce services program was streamlined, giving the program a competitive advantage over similar programs in other states. Nationally, Wilhelm has served as President of the National Association of Industry-Specific Training Directors, while in Virginia he has participated in various initiatives of other state organizations over the years, starting with the Virginia Community College System. Wilhelm has served on VEDA's professional development and volunteer of the year committees and is a long-time supporter of the association.

The Cardinal Award is the most prestigious award bestowed by VEDA to deserving members. The award recognizes leadership in the field of economic development, outstanding professional accomplishments, and exceptional service to the organization. Nominations are open in early summer each year to VEDA past or current members. The nominator must be a member of the association.

VEDA is a member-based professional association committed to providing training and development; networking opportunities; and serving as the voice of the economic development community, creating economic opportunity and prosperity for the Commonwealth of Virginia. VEDA's membership is comprised of more than 630 economic development professionals and related industry professionals from across the state of Virginia. For more information about VEDA visit the web site at www.vedanet.org.

#